

James Madison to James Madison Sr., December 7, 1786. Transcription: The Writings of James Madison, ed. Gaillard Hunt. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1900-1910.

TO JAMES MADISON. MAD. MSS.

Richmd. Decr. 17th. 1786

Hond Sir, —Yours by Mr. Porter has been handed to me. I have not had an oppy. of enquirg. of Mr. Anderson concerning the person who is to receive Tobo. for his brother. I mentioned before that the rate of indents here was about a dollar in the pound. Whether I can get the certificates for your taxes I cannot say, nor do I know the rate at which they pass. Mr. Jones has returned hither & declines his appt. to Congs. Fresh butter will be very acceptable, the supply sent being already out. No other article of provisions is wanted, as we dine at a Tavern. I propose to go from Fredg. to N. York in the Stage, & shall consequently take no horses with me. When I shall set out I can not decide, but expect to leave this before Xmas sometime. The representation of the State in Congs. during the winter will be so precarious that I shall be able to stay a day or two only in Orange¹ I have other reasons also of a public nature

¹ “The truth is, we have not a government to wield and correct. . . . We have only four States now on the floor.”—Carrington to Madison, from Congress, December 18, 1786. Mad. MSS.

for wishing to hasten my journey, and a private one arising from the probable increase of the cold in case of delay. Tell my brother Ambrose, I wish him to *sound* Mr. Cowherd as to the possibility of his making a payment before the first of Jany. instead of the time fixed.

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I will abate a reasonable interest, and be obliged to him into the bargain. My affections to the family. Yr. dutiful son

Js. Madison Jr.

I wish my cloathes so far as they may require little amendmts. to be put in order before I get to Orange, that I may not be detained on that score.